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Old Smelters at Murray, Utah.

Down near Murray, where the American smelter grinds out its daily output of bullion and matte, are four old dilapidated smelters showing the mark of the wind and snow which have beaten about the old ruins for so many years, but resting serene in their idleness. The city of Murray always has been a popular smelter site and still retains some of its old time glory in this respect. However, only one smelter is engaged in the refining of ore, while others have gone long ago.

The Horn Silver smelter started in the infancy of the town and for a long time was a mint for the owners. The smelter, situated in the hollow west of Murray, was the only exclusive silver smelter this valley has ever known. Its daily output was considered exceedingly good, but owing to a slack in ore, and general conditions not being up to expectations, the smelter finally closed for good.

Just now there is nothing in evidence except a huge smokestack, twisted steel and iron to remind one that the refinery once stood there.

Along the route of the Oregon Short Line, near the extreme northern limits of Murray, are ruins of the Hanauer smelter, also one of the big smelters there in its time. Its career was never considered prosperous, despite the fact that the pay roll was large, together with the fact that much ore was treated. Following valuable improvements and the installation of new machinery, the plant began its uneventful career. The smelter ran for a number of years, covering a wide area with huge piles of slag and cast off machinery. The property is now owned by the Gordons and is being used for almost anything which comes to the minds of the owners. Little Cottonwood creek winds its way through the tract of land, and past that old unused smelter, while a number of houses have been erected nearby and county officials are making use of the slag, but the plant itself is a thing of the past.

The Highland Boy smelter was the next to go. This particular plant was perhaps next to the largest in Salt Lake county. It ran for a good many years, enjoying a good output before a damper was put on the works by the farmers thereabouts. The smelter would still be occupying its pedestal of fame had it not been for a few farmers who owned scanty tracts of lucerne land on the outskirts of the smelter property. The smelter officials were eager to be at peace with the owners of this land and made all kinds of overtures. They installed a smoke consumer at the big copper refinery, but this did not satisfy the farmers in the least. They kicked, and finally the matter was carried to the courts, where the smelter people were assessed until they were forced to quit business there. The farmers kept up their fight until the smelter officials gave up the fight in disgust.

A little town sprung up near the Highland Boy, and it was here that more than three hundred families lived. When the big plant closed, many remained, hoping that the smelter would again begin operations. The plant remained inactive, and it was then that the residents began to move to more alluring fields.

At the present time little remains of the smelter. The big steel structures and even the big smoke stack, from which poured volumes of thick black smoke for so many years, has been torn down. About the space where the refinery once stood are a few old vacant houses. This plant employed more than 1,000 men and were the means of building up a big portion of the country in that vicinity.

Enshrouded in its silver surrounding is the old Germania, at one time operated by the American Smelting & Refining company, now occupying the old site but without its former activity. The veteran smelter man, T. R. Jones, once had charge of the Germania, and such men as Austin, Tucker and many others helped to make it the strong industry at Murray that it used to be.

When work on the Murray plant on the hill south of the city was started

more than six years ago, it was contended that the Germania would still remain. But wise heads who had studied the smelter game in this valley and who had watched other plants with less pull than the Germania go under, predicted that the American smelter would be the only one in that neck of the woods. True to the prophecy, when the American finally began work, the Germania was closed down. The big smelter which stands on the hill south of the city proper has in recent years forged to the front, and more than doubled its output and has easily lived up to the expectations of the heads of the company.

In speaking about the smelter industry in this valley in general in the past, it must be said that the city of Murray is the only town in the United States where so many smelters have been built and left to decay, which easily marks the stride of times and progress. The smelter graveyard will always go under the same old name, and in years to come the historical events attached to the dilapidated institutions of the wealthy will again be cited and perhaps other smelters erected.—Salt Lake Tribune.

Smelting with Oil.

The newest process, called the Kuenzel method, has been highly recommended by mining engineers of repute, who state it has the earmarks of being an invention worth while, and not an addition to the large number of schemes that have failed to work.

The inventor, Charles A. Kuenzel, of Colorado, first encountered the smelters when he became an ore shipper, and it is claimed that the smelter is destined to establish new conditions that will amount to an industrial revolution. As stated by the Mining Record, the announcement of the opening of the Kuenzel smelters is a proclamation of emancipation to the mine owners of the west.

Three of the fifty-ton furnaces at the new plant in Beuna Vista, Colo., are now smelting metal from ore bought by the management. Five more 50-ton furnaces are rapidly nearing completion. The Kuenzel smelter announces that the total expense it will assess against the producer for treating ores will in no case exceed 48¢ a ton.

The smelting of ores without the uses of fluxes, and without the attendant slags to run to waste, is a decided innovation, says Arthur Lake. While the possibilities of disintegrating the ore into its metallic and gangue components by subjecting it to high heat is a fact not new, yet it has not heretofore been used in practical smelting. The Kuenzel process utilizes this principle in its smelt and the lower the temperature required. The slags used in starting the smelt are brought from old dumps, and it is estimated that from these a profit of from 38¢ to 58¢ a ton can be made.

The process, says Prof. Lake, consists primarily in subjecting ores to a very high heat, with direct contact to the flame. The success of the process rests in the regulation of the heat, so that the temperature is at no time too high or too low. Silicious ores can be fed direct to the furnace and high extraction made without trouble, though, of course, the greater the metal content of the charge the quicker the smelt. The ores of zinc have no terror to this process. The treatment consists merely in the regulation of the heat.

The furnace is merely a slight modification of the reverberating furnace. The features of the process consist principally in the generation of a dry gas by the inventor's patent appliance.

Oil is the only fuel used. But nothing like ordinary oil burners are used. The furnace is unlike any other; in principle it is analogous to the oxy-hydrogen blow pipe. For average ore heat used is about 3,000 degrees, but for refractory ores, with furnaces lined with highly resistant fire bricks, the temperature can be put up to 4,900 degrees.

There is no strong blast to aid combustion. Air is compressed in the compressor to 80 pounds and delivered

through nozzles entering the furnace at 10 pounds pressure.

The cost of treating the ore averages about 45 cents per ton for actual operating expenses.

It is the intention of the company to establish custom plants in such points as are accessible to mineral producing localities in the west, south-west and Mexico.—Denver Mining Record.

Reports Rich Strike on Yukon Tributary.

A Vancouver dispatch says: Placer gold in quantities rivaling the finds in the early days of the Klondike is being mined by two parties of men on creeks running into the Koyukuk river 150 miles from its confluence with the Yukon river in Alaska, according to George Dupuy, a special correspondent of the Paris Figaro, who arrived in Vancouver yesterday on his way to France.

Mr. Dupuy says the men, of whom there are fifteen, have kept the discovery a secret for two years. During that time they have shipped out only enough gold to pay for their supplies. Dupuy says the miners have cleaned up 500,000\$ in the two seasons they have been working the creeks.

The characteristic of the gold is its coarseness. Nuggets weighing half a pound are not uncommon and a record was made when five nuggets found in one day had a value of 10,000\$, says Dupuy. He declares that eight men shoveling dirt for four hours had a cleanup worth nearly 5,000\$.

"There is no doubt about the correctness of the strike," said Dupuy. "My informant is on the layout. He gave me the news on condition I would not make it public until I had reached the outside. If this information were known in Dawson and Fairbanks there would be a stampede to the place at once."

Nevada Consolidated Copper.

One of the new steam shovels ordered some time ago by the Nevada Consolidated Copper Co. was received last week and will be put to work in the big pit at Copper Flat. The new shovel makes six of the ponderous machines in use at the pit where during each 24 hours they mine from 7,000 to 9,000 tons of ore and remove a still greater tonnage of overburden. Good progress is being made with the preliminary excavation in the new steam shovel pit which is being opened up by the Nevada Consolidated on the Liberty group. Overburden at the point where the new pit is being started is said to average not more than 60 feet in thickness and some of the ore as developed by churn drill work is reported to carry as high as 3 per cent copper. A second steam shovel, which is expected any day now, will be put to work at the Liberty pit when received. There is yet much work to be done, however, before the Liberty pit will be ready for production. Two of the eight sections of the Steeple concentrator at McGill have been shut down for the past few days to allow the overhauling of two of the engines at the smelter power house. The concentrators' ore supply from Copper Flat ran a little short the first of the week, but shipments are now about up to the standard and the reserves in the bins are being replenished. While the Nevada Consolidated has as yet made no definite move toward a curtailment of output, the management is certainly not rushing things and it would be no surprise locally if orders were given at any time to reduce forces, temporarily at least, in line with the reported policy of Utah Copper and the companies at Butte.—Mining Age.

Pacific Mine is Coming Producer.

Recent developments in the 300 foot level of the Pacific mine in the Silver Mountain district have demonstrated beyond doubt that the size and grade of the ore bodies uncovered several months ago are merchantable. Samples show values ranging from 208 to 240\$ a ton. One drift has been run 80 feet through a body of first-class milling ore from four to seven feet in thickness.

A winze has been started on the level and is now down 25 feet in a four feet ore body showing values from 30\$ to 60\$ a ton.

Operations of the last few months have resulted in the accumulation of several carloads of ore. Immediately after the completion of the wagon road from camp to Harrington three carloads of the heavy copper sulphides will be shipped on which test runs will be made. The road will be open for traffic about September 15.

The new hoisting plant recently purchased will be installed as soon as the road is finished when sinking of the main shaft will be resumed. The shaft is now 300 feet deep. It will be sunk to the 500 foot level as rapidly as possible and extensive lateral work started from that point. It is the intention of the Pacific Copper Company to erect a reduction plant as soon as the ore bodies are developed sufficiently to insure a steady ore supply.

The property is located in the Bradshaw mountains south of Harrington. The company is building a road from Harrington to the camp at an expenditure of several thousand dollars. It is the first wagon road that has ever been constructed through that region. The development of the district has been retarded many years on account of the lack of transportation facilities. The preliminary survey of the territorial road from Prescott to Phenix passes through the district within a short distance of the Pacific and other properties of proven merit.—Prescott Journal-Miner.

Rich Strike on the Silent King.

James U. Nisbet of Polaris was in town the fore part of the week, bringing with him some rich specimens from a recent strike on the Silent King. The ore is literally speckled with free gold, and picked samples will run into the thousands of dollars per ton. The strike was made in the shaft at a depth of 40 feet, the character of the ore being a quartz-porphry.

The dyke upon which the ore is being sunk is twenty feet in width, composed of a brecciated porphyry, with a rhyolite capping, and can be traced on the surface for a distance of two miles. The pay streak varies from five to fifteen inches in width, values running from 100\$ to 2500\$ to the ton. Four assays recently taken across five feet of the shaft at the 30-foot point returned an average of 80\$ to the ton. At the 20-foot point samples returned an average of 40\$ per ton.

The Silent King group consists of nine claims located along a highly mineralized dyke running east and west. The contact pitches 55 degrees south, while the general formation pitches to the north. The footwall is an andesite and the hanging wall a gray porphyry. The property is located about five miles north of the North Star. Yuma county's premier gold producer, and three miles distant from Alamo Springs. Associated with Mr. Nisbet in the ownership of the Silent King are W. H. Clark and G. F. Clark of Salt Lake, both well known mining men of the west. W. H. Clark is interested in properties in Goldfield, Nevada, and Leadville, Col., and is confident of developing a mine on the Alamo dyke.

Mr. Nisbet is just now establishing a permanent camp on the property. A bunk house and other buildings are being constructed. A whim has been received and two shafts are now employed in sinking. If the present good showing continues to the 100-foot point the owners will put in the necessary machinery for more extensive developments.—Parker Post.

A Bisbee special says: Shipments of rich copper oxide ore are being made from the Shattuck Arizona mine, at the rate of 175 tons a day. The ore will average 17 per cent copper. No sinking is being done at the present time, as a sufficient ore has been blocked out on the levels to supply the demand for some time. The most of the ore shipped is from the upper levels and the sulphide in the lower levels will remain untouched until the copper market becomes stronger.

Seeking Placer Beds.

For the past several weeks engineers and prospectors have been out along the Arizona side of the Colorado river searching for placer digging, and from all indications there will be more placer mining in this part of the territory the coming season than for many years past. At La Paz preparations are already under way for the beginning of active placer operations at an early date. Work on a five mile pipeline is now in progress. A shipment of machinery and pipe, aggregating upwards of 150 tons, is expected to arrive in Parker about the first of September. It is understood the New La Paz Gold Mining company is now making arrangements for its transportation to its property forty miles south of Parker.

La Paz is situated just outside of the southern lines of the Colorado Indian reservation, and within a few miles north of Ehrenberg. In the early days at least 15,000 people were employed there. It is claimed that a large part of the southern extremity of the reservation is rich in placer gold, but as it is on the reservation it cannot be worked by mining men. After the reservation has been opened there will be a scramble for these placer fields.

The fields south of La Paz and extending down well toward Yuma are also rich in placer gold, and it is in this district that the prospectors are today searching.—Tombstone Prospector.

Imperial Mines are Not Closed.

A Tucson dispatch says: Not only have the Imperial Copper company's mines at Silverbell not closed down, but there is no intention that they shall. This statement is made on the highest authority and corrects a report published which is said to have been brought to Tucson by a discharged employe. The only change in the operations of the company is the discontinuance temporarily of the shipment of ore from the mines to the smelter during the low price of copper. Development in the mines will continue, and the ore, instead of being shipped to the smelter and sold in a very low market, will be held for smelting and sold when the market conditions improve, it is stated.

What will be the longest fence in the world and the longest artificial boundary wall separating nations since the great wall of China, has been ordered built by the United States government to separate this country from Mexico along that portion of the border not now divided by a river. At first it was understood that the fence would extend along the southern border of the state of California, but when completed will extend to El Paso, a distance of close to a thousand miles from the Pacific ocean and with a five strand, steel-tight barbed wire fence will require nearly five thousand miles of wire.—Douglas International.

E. L. Fletcher, manager of the Tungsten Mining company, returned a few days since from Salt Lake City, where he purchased a complete concentrating plant and rolls for crushing the ore. The grading has been completed for the plant, which it is expected will be erected and in operation within two months, or even less time. This will be the first plant actually manufacturing tungsten product within the state. Its success will be the means of bringing in other properties of the same class in the eastern portion of White Pine county.—Ely Record.

RID TOP MINE—The eastern extension of the Gold Road mines. Office with Muter & Teale, Luthy Block.

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